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Statement submitted by World Federation for Mental Health, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

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Statement

The World Federation for Mental Health has been a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council since 1963. Our mission is the prevention of mental and emotional disorders, the proper treatment and care of those with such disorders, and the promotion of mental health and well-being.

Mental disorders, as a group, are one the leading causes of disability globally and are universal across all countries, often leading to social and economic inequality. More than 80% of people with mental disorders have little or no access to effective treatment or care. Suicide is growing as one of the leading cause of death across the world. Mental disorders also commonly co-occur with infectious and non-communicable diseases leading to greater risk of death and poorer outcomes. For success in meeting the goals of the sustainable development goals, mental disorders must by recognized. We assert that without specific and explicit commitments and targets that mental health will once again be forgotten and that too little attention and resources will be apportioned to treating mental disorders.

We fully support and commend the Open Working Group for its proposal to recognize the importance of including mental health in the sustainable development goal 3. We, along with our global partners, strongly urge the member states to make commitments to mental health through the revision in the sustainable development goal 3 and in targets 3.4 and 3.8 as proposed by the #FundaMentalSDG initiative as follows:

(a) Goal 3: "Ensure healthy lives and promote physical and mental health and well-being for all at all ages";

(b) Target 3.4 — "By 2030, reduce by one third preventable mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment in full accordance with the World Health Organization Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases, and promote mental health and well-being in full accordance with the World Health Organization Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020";

(c) Target 3.8 — "Achieve universal health coverage for physical and mental disorders, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all."

It is imperative for people with mental illness and psychosocial disabilities to be recognized and to reaffirm that physical and mental health is a basic human right and at the heart of a people-centred, global approach to sustainable development.